



# FATHERHOOD AND HEALTHY FAMILIES

*A Quarterly Newsletter Published by the Alabama Department of Human Resources – winter 2006*

**We are ringing in the NEW YEAR with a NEW NAME for the Alabama Fatherhood Initiative (AFI) Newsletter!** The AFI has grown to include many agencies and organizations that work with families AND fathers. We all share a common goal of strengthening families. This name change makes good sense!

The **3<sup>RD</sup>** Alabama Conference on  
**Fatherhood and Healthy Families**  
May 3, 4, 5, 2006  
Birmingham, Alabama

This year's Conference is broadening to include the interrelated family issues of fatherhood, parenthood, healthy marriage, non-marital childbearing and more! Go to the Conference web site: [www.alfatherhood.org](http://www.alfatherhood.org) to learn more about the 2006 lineup of outstanding speakers and workshops.

**The Auburn University College of Human Sciences Center for Children, Youth, and Families has received a federal grant from the Compassion Capital Fund**

**Immediate Grant Opportunity:** Part of the grant funds will be used to provide sub-award grants in the amount of **\$380,000** to approximately 20 community-based and faith-based organizations in the State of Alabama, with a special emphasis on serving low-resource and ethnically-diverse communities with interest in offering programs that support healthy relationships and marriages, responsible fatherhood, and family stability. Sub-awards will range from \$15,000 to \$25,000. Grant recipient agencies will receive intensive

technical assistance from AMFP faculty and staff to build overall organizational capacity and specific capacity for offering these programs. Regional trainings will also be offered in 2006 to include workshops on building general organizational capacity for a community healthy marriage initiative and programs that support healthy marriages and responsible fatherhood. *The first of these training sessions will be offered at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Alabama Fatherhood and Healthy Families Conference.*

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## **Community Fatherhood Programs Do Make A Difference for Fathers and their Children!**

*The following letter was written to David Collins, AFI Fatherhood Case Manager at Gadsden State Community College, by a non-custodial father enrolled in the AFI Short term Skills Training Pilot of Etowah County.*

Mr. Collins:

Thank you for putting me in touch with the folks over at Etowah Community Services. I met with them last week and their program is exactly what I have been looking for. We are meeting again this week so that my ex-wife and son can meet program staff. We are all very excited about what they are offering us. I have also worked on registration. All I need is my acceptance letter from the school and final approval. I should be ready to start class around the third week of this month. I hope you had a wonderful holiday break. Thank you again for your assistance.

An Appreciative Non-Custodial Father

*A truly rich man is one whose children run into his arms when his hands are empty. ~ Author Unknown*